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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the United States Patent  
and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following amendments before calculation of the filing fee and examination of the merits.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Abstract** begin on page 6 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper

An **Appendix** including a clean copy of the substitute specification is attached following page 7 of this paper.